

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 9-11, 13, 14, 56 and 57 have been allowed.

Claims 15 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP 10-1091079 (JP '079) in view of United States Patent No. 2,530,204 to Levy and further in view of JP 56-106360 (JP '360). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features of the present invention of independent Claim 15. More specifically, neither JP '079 nor the Levy reference nor JP '360, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a lighting unit in which "the phosphor is dispersed throughout a region between inner and outer surfaces of the wall of the tube" (emphasis added), as defined in independent Claim 15. This feature is disclosed in the present Specification on page 55 (lines 27-28) and in Figure 10. As can be seen in the cross-section of Figure 10, the phosphor, which is represented by stippling, is dispersed throughout a region between the inner and outer surfaces of tubes 44. In other words, in the present invention of Claim 15, in the region between the inner and outer surfaces of the wall of the tube, a substance constituting the tube is filled. That is, the phosphor is dispersed in the substance as a whole, which is a feature not disclosed in the cited references, as explained more fully below.

The lighting unit defined in independent Claim 15 can obtain the specific technical effect that the substantial diameter of the cold-cathode ray tubes can be smaller than

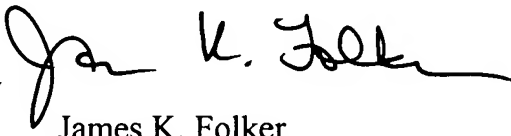
the outer diameter of the glass tubes because the local light-scattering ability of the glass tubes is low.

As correctly acknowledged by the Examiner, JP '079 does not disclose a cold-cathode tube. Accordingly, the Examiner relied upon the Levy reference and JP '360 for this feature. However, the Levy reference discloses that the luminescent material 3 is only formed on the interior surface of the outer glass wall 2a, and that the translucent photoemissive material 4 is only formed on the exterior surface of the inner wall 2b (which exterior surface is still within outer wall 2a). *See* Levy, col. 2, lines 1-13 and Figures 1 and 2. However, the Levy reference fails to disclose or suggest that the phosphor is dispersed throughout the region between the inner and outer surfaces of any of the walls 2a and 2b and the lamp envelope 2.

Further, JP '360 also fails to disclose or suggest this feature. More specifically, the English Abstract of JP '360 only discloses the use of phosphor film 9 on the outer wall of inner tube 5 and phosphor film 12 on the inner wall of outer tube 10, as shown in Figures 3 and 4 of JP '360. Thus, JP '360 does not disclose phosphor dispersed throughout the region between the inner wall of outer tube 10 and the outer wall of inner tube 5, but instead only discloses a layer of phosphor on each of the facing walls of tubes 5 and 10. Accordingly, as all of the features defined in independent Claim 15 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 15 and associated dependent Claim 55.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
James K. Folker
Registration No. 37,538

May 13, 2008
Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978
P:\DOCS\1324\68392\CR2027.DOC